

Appln No. 09/695,900
Amdt date April 9, 2007
Reply to Office action of March 14, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) In a hyperlinked television system including a broadcaster transmitting a hyperlinked television broadcast and a receiver receiving the transmitted hyperlinked television broadcast, a method for indicating to a viewer of the hyperlinked television broadcast that a video object of a video frame has associated therewith hyperlinked information, the video object being displayed based on video frame data, the method comprising:

determining by the receiver whether the video object in the video frame is ~~viewable~~ visible to a viewer of the television broadcast during a particular shot, wherein the video frame is associated with one or more visibility bits, and the receiver determines whether the video object in the video frame is ~~viewable~~ visible to the viewer based on the one or more visibility bits;

displaying an interactive content icon responsive to the determination by the receiver that the video object is ~~viewable~~ visible to the viewer during the particular shot, the icon for indicating that the video object has hyperlinked information associated therewith;

receiving user actuation of a user input device in response to the display of the interactive content icon; and

visually highlighting the video object during the particular shot in response to the user actuation of the user input device, wherein the visually highlighting is automatic based on the one or more visibility bits and not in response to a user pointing or selecting the video object.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said interactive content icon reflects a subset of the buttons on a remote control.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for indicating to a viewer of a hyperlinked television broadcast that a video object of a video frame has associated therewith hyperlinked information, the method comprising:

displaying an interactive icon for indicating that the video object has hyperlinked information associated therewith, wherein said interactive icon reflects a subset of the buttons on a remote control; and

visually highlighting the video object in the video frame, wherein said interactive content icon is displayed with a visual effect that automatically changes with time, simulating the action of depressing one or more buttons of said remote control, wherein each change of the visual effect is accompanied with an automatic change of an object in the video frame that is visually highlighted.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein said displayed interactive content icon includes a display of text that explains that functionality of the one or more buttons.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising displaying the interactive content icon in response to a signal contained within the hyperlinked television broadcast.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising displaying the interactive content icon in response to a change in a video image that is displayed.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising displaying the interactive content icon in response to a viewer's use of a remote control.

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18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said interactive content icon conveys information about content of said hyperlinked information associated with the object.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said interactive content icon conveys information about a number of objects having said hyperlinked information associated therewith.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said interactive content icon conveys information about an action associated with the object, said action comprising displaying at least one of text and graphics and switching to another video stream.

21. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said interactive content icon comprises an alphanumeric character.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein alphanumeric character displays a time period remaining until an interaction opportunity will occur.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein a plurality of the video objects visible to the viewer~~viewable~~ during the particular shot are each automatically highlighted in sequence based on the one or more visibility bits without the user pointing or selecting each of the plurality of the video objects.

25. (Canceled)

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26. (Currently Amended) A hyperlinked television system for indicating to a viewer of a hyperlinked television broadcast that a video object of a video frame has associated therewith hyperlinked information, the video object being displayed based on video frame data, the system including a broadcaster transmitting the hyperlinked television broadcast and a receiver receiving the transmitted hyperlinked television broadcast, the receiver comprising:

a display;

a processor; and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

determining whether the video object in the video frame is ~~viewable~~ visible to a viewer of the television broadcast during a particular shot, wherein the video frame is associated with one or more visibility bits, and the receiver determines whether the video object in the video frame is ~~viewable~~ visible to the viewer based on the one or more visibility bits;

displaying an interactive content icon on the display responsive to the determination that the video object is ~~viewable~~ visible to the viewer during the particular shot, the icon for indicating that the video object has hyperlinked information associated therewith;

receiving user actuation of a user input device in response to the display of the interactive content icon; and

visually highlighting the video object during the particular shot in response to the user actuation of the user input device, wherein the visually highlighting is automatic based on the one or more visibility bits and not in response to a user pointing or selecting the video object.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein a plurality of the video objects ~~viewable~~ visible to the viewer during the particular shot are each automatically

highlighted in sequence based on the one or more visibility bits without the user pointing or selecting each of the plurality of the video objects.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) A hyperlinked television system for indicating to a viewer of a hyperlinked television broadcast that a video object of a video frame has associated therewith hyperlinked information, the video object being displayed based on video frame data, the system including a broadcaster transmitting the hyperlinked television broadcast and a receiver receiving the transmitted hyperlinked television broadcast, the receiver comprising:

a display;

a processor; and

a memory operably coupled to the processor and having program instructions stored therein, the processor being operable to execute the program instructions, the program instructions including:

determining whether the video object in the video frame is viewable during a particular shot, wherein the video frame is associated with one or more visibility bits, and the receiver determines whether the video object in the video frame is viewable based on the one or more visibility bits;

displaying an interactive content icon on the display responsive to the determination that the video object is viewable during the particular shot, the icon for indicating that the video object has hyperlinked information associated therewith; and

visually highlighting the video object during the particular shot, wherein said interactive content icon is displayed with a visual effect that automatically changes with time, wherein each change of the visual effect is accompanied with an automatic change of an object in the video frame that is visually highlighted.

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31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the interactive content icon indicates a time period remaining until an interaction opportunity will occur.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11, wherein said interactive content icon is displayed with a visual effect that changes with time, simulating the action of depressing one or more buttons of said remote control.

34. (New) The method of claim 10 further comprising:
automatically changing the video object in the video frame that is visually highlighted.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the automatically changing of the video object is not dependent on a user pointing or selecting the video object.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the automatically changing of the video object is in response to a passage of a predetermined period of time.

37. (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the program instructions further include:
automatically changing the video object in the video frame that is visually highlighted.

38. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the automatically changing of the video object is not dependent on a user pointing or selecting the video object.

39. (New) The system of claim 37, wherein the automatically changing of the video object is in response to a passage of a predetermined period of time.